20 September 2018

Original: English*

Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
17–21 September 2018

Draft report

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Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (c): Practical measures to operationalize regional cooperation in drug law enforcement

1. The working group held one meeting on 20 September 2018. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Concrete examples of bilateral cooperation between countries across the Continent exist, but this cooperation has not yet been translated into multilateral cooperative arrangements;

(b) Knowledge and use of existing information exchange platforms and their functionalities are lacking;

(c) There are a number of ongoing programmes supported by various international organizations focused on regional cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies and other related authorities that are not coordinated;

(d) There is a lack of emphasis on illicit financial flows and proceeds of crimes in existing drug investigations;

(e) Differences in legal frameworks and languages are barriers to effective cooperation between countries.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) The success of joint operations between countries demonstrates a real opportunity to counter drug criminal networks across the continent and beyond;

(b) There is a need to enhance awareness and utilization of existing information-sharing and cooperation platforms;

(c) Criminal investigation capacity with regard to post seizure investigations, financial investigations and the use of special investigative techniques is lacking in some countries.

* Available only in Arabic, English and French, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

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3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to ensure enhanced awareness and to make best use of existing intelligence and cooperation platforms such as AFRIPOL, INTERPOL, World Customs Organisation, Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARIN), judicial cooperation networks and others;

(b) Drug law enforcement and other relevant agencies should explore opportunities to undertake multilateral intelligence-led investigations targeting regional and interregional drug trafficking networks;

(c) Governments are urged to undertake regular training needs-assessments of their drug law enforcement agencies and to develop capacity-building programmes to address current gaps in capability to tackle drug trafficking impacting the continent.

V.18-06239